



2012 National Underground Railroad Conference Escaping to Destinations South: The Underground Railroad, Cultural Identity, and Freedom along the Southern Borderlands

June 20-24, 2012 ~ St. Augustine, Florida St. Johns County Convention Center @ Renaissance World Golf Village

Wednesday, June 20

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Florida's African American Heritage Legacy Tour 1

Explore the late 19th and 20th century African American history in Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

Participants will visit <u>Norman Studios</u>, the studio complex of white silent filmmaker Richard E. Norman, which produced high quality feature silent films with all black casts between 1921 and 1928. The Studio's best known film, "The Flying Ace" (1926), was inspired by Bessie Coleman, the first black female airplane pilot, and is said to have helped inspire the Tuskegee Airmen.

Next, we'll take a trip to the <u>Ritz Theatre and Museum</u> located on the site of the 1929 Ritz Theater movie house in Jacksonville's historic African American community of La Villa. During La Villa's height of activity in the 1920s-1960s, it was known as the "Harlem of the South." The mission of the Ritz Theatre and Museum is to "research, record, and preserve the material and artistic culture of African American life in Northeast Florida and the African Diaspora."

Finally, we'll travel back to St. Augustine for a narrated, trolley tour of Historic <u>Lincolnville</u>, a vibrant African American neighborhood founded in 1866 by former slaves and the center of the city's black community. Lincolnville contains a large collection of historic residences and churches, a cultural center that exhibits the neighborhood's development, and a Freedom Trail that traces the important role the city's African American community played in the Civil Rights Movement and passage of 1964 Civil Rights Act.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm **Opening Reception**

Thursday, June 21

8:00 am	Conference Registration
8:00 am - 5:30 pm	Exhibit Hall, featuring Gullah Geechee cultural crafts
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)
8:45 am – 10:00 am	Conference Opening: Keynote Speaker William Loren Katz





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

10:00 am – 11:30 am Opening Plenary "Black Seminole Diaspora: Florida, Bahamas, Texas and Mexico Descendant Communities"

Rosalyn Howard, University of Central Florida, Department of Anthropology, Director of the North American Indian Studies Program

Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History and Acting Director of Center for Latin American Studies

Shirley Boteler Mock, Research Fellow, Mesoamerican Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Texas, Austin

11:30 pm - 12:30 pm Luncheon

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm **Session 1**

Freedom Seekers in Early Florida

Susan Parker, "Spanish Slaves Flee St. Augustine in 1603: Refuge for Spanish Slaves Among Native Americans in The Early Seventeenth Century"

Roger Clark Smith, "The Façade of British Freedom for Slaves During the American Revolution" Mary K. Herron, "Florida's Black Cowboys: Finding Freedom On The Range"

Moderator: Gary Zellar

Session 2

Negotiating Slavery: Maroonage in the American Caribbean

Mark Barnes, "Maritime Maroonage in the American Caribbean"

Milagros Flores, "Status of Enslaved Africans in Dutch and Spanish Colonies as Revealed in Documents from the National Archives of Spain"

George Tyson, "Maritime Maroonage from St. Croix to Puerto Rico 1734-1848"

Moderator: Larry Rivers

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm Break

2:15 pm - 3:45 pm **Session 3**

Fort Mose, Florida, America's Black Fortress of Freedom Yesterday and Today

Kathleen Deagan, "Fort Mose: The Historical-Archaeological Project and Its Origins"

Jane Landers, "History and Historical Research on Fort Mose"

Darcie MacMahon, "Presenting Fort Mose: The First Public Exhibit"

Moderator: Thomas Jackson

Session 4

Seminole Migrations: History and Archaeology of Resistance, Flight and Rebellion in the Southeast and Southwest





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Brent Weisman, "Seminole Maroon Adaptations: What Does the Archaeology of the Freedom Seeker Look Like and What Can We Learn From It?"

Uzi Baram, "Including Maroon History on the Florida Gulf Coast: Recovering a Haven for Freedom on the Manatee River"

Gary Zellar, "The First to Fight for Freedom: African Creeks and African Seminoles and Opothleyahola'a Exodus to Kansas, 1861

Moderator: Canter Brown

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm Break

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Session 5

Diggin' the Dirt: Contributions from Archaeology and Material Culture

John Jameson, "The Work of the Southeast Archaeological Center in Providing Tangible and Intangible Links and Contributions to the Underground Railroad Story"

Thadra Stanton, "Archaeological Investigations for Freedman's Colony, Roanoke Island"

Stephen Wise, "New Evidence of a Gathering Place for Emancipation; Archaeological Investigation of the Forks of the Road Slave Market in Natchez, Mississippi"

Moderator: Kathleen Deagan

Session 6

Circular Migrations: Florida and Bahamian Connections

Grace Turner, "A Voice from the Bahamas: An Historical Overview of the Movement of Bahamians of African Descent Between the Bahamas and South Florida"

Elvira Walker Coaston, "Truth versus Reality: The Liberated and The Enslaved in Antebellum Key West"

Rita Pratt, "The Original Black Seminole/Sammy Lewis and the Black Seminole Descendents of Red Bay's/Lewis Coppice, Andros, Bahamas"

Moderator: Enid Curtis Pinkney

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm **Banquet Celebration**

Performance: Freedom is Coming: Songs of Freedom, Resistance & the Underground Railroad

Matt Hampsey, Bruce Barnes, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park and Nancy Dawson, *Music is Spirit*. Stephen Marc, *Passage on the Underground Railroad* photographic montage.

Friday, June 22





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

8:00 am Registration

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Exhibit Hall, featuring Gullah Geechee Cultural crafts

8:00 am - 8:45 am Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)

9:00 am - 10:30 am Session 7

'We Reach Freedom When Day Clean': Tourism and Teaching about Bahamian Sanctuary for the Black Seminoles of Florida

Serena Franklin, "Including the Black Seminole Diaspora in the Bahamian History Curriculum: A Psychosocial Development Approach"

Rosalyn Howard, "Community Assessment as an Empowerment Tool: Cultural Heritage Planning and Process in Red Bays, Andros Island, Bahamas"

Deborah Ziel, "The Role of Ethnoarchaeology in 'Giving Forward' to the Community of Red Bays, Andros Island, Bahamas"

Moderator: Jane Landers

Session 8

Re-Presenting the Memory of Military Sites

William Stanton, "Armed Resistance in *La Florida*: the "Negro Fort" at Prospect Bluff on the Apalachicola River, Florida"

Bill Ryan, "The Search for Old Kings Road – an Historic Slave Escape Route into Florida" Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, "Re-Presenting Seminole Maroon Heritage: The Case of the Loxahatchee" Moderator: Robert Stanton

10:30 am - 10:45 am Break

10:45 am - 12:15 pm Session 9

The Black Seminole Freedom Legacy of West Central Florida: Tales of Survival and Tactical Military Resistance

John Griffin and Matthew Griffin, "Floridian Black Seminole Descendants' Perspectives on the Historic Alliance and Induction into the Seminole Tribe"

Nathan Lawres, "Native and African Cultures and their Resistance to Oppression in Florida" Moderator: Rosalyn Howard

Session 10





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Gullah Cultural Characteristics among the Florida Maroons and Tracing the Freedom Trail through Spanish Florida

Anthony Dixon, "Gullah/West African Origins and Cultural Characteristics of the Florida Maroon Societies"

Annette Kashif, "Escaping With Linguistic Agency: Gullah/Geechee Names/Naming Practices" Ralph Johnson, "The Saga of Africans of Spanish Florida and Their New Promised Land: San Augustin De La Nueva Florida, Cuba"

Moderator: Antoinette Jackson

12:15 pm - 1:15 pm Luncheon

1:15 pm - 2:45 pm **Session 11**

Practical and Political Considerations in Developing Heritage Tourism and Cultural Preservation Initiatives

Michael Allen, "The Material Culture of the Gullah Geechee National Heritage Corridor" Michelle Lanier, "North Carolina Freedom Roads: The Development of a Statewide Underground Railroad Trail Program"

William Clark, "The Politics of Making Fort Mosé Public"

Moderator: Susan Parker

Session 12

African Retentions and Gullah Connections among the Seminole Maroons

Alcione M. Amos, "The Black Seminoles are the Gullah that Got Away"
Shirley Boteler Mock, "African-derived Traditions among Black Indian Communities"
Cynthia Holl Porcher, "Expanding the Gullah Geechee Diaspora"
Moderator: Tanya Price

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm Poster Session / Break (Exhibit Hall)

3:15 pm - 5:00 pm Black Seminole Descendants' Convocation

Remarks: Robert Stanton

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm Explore Historic St. Augustine

Participants will spend the evening on a private Hop-on/ Hop-Off trolley to some of St. Augustine's most popular destinations, including the historic <u>Castillo de San Marcos National Monument</u>, the <u>St. Augustine Pirate and Treasure Museum</u>, the <u>Ximenez-Fatio House Museum</u> (a magnificently maintained Spanish Colonial residential complex built circa 1798), and the pedestrian mall located at the historic intersection of Hypolita and St. Georges Streets.





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Saturday, June 23

Explore the history of African enslavement in the American colonies and the determination of freedomseekers to escape to Spanish Florida and defend their freedom.

Participants will visit <u>Kingsley Plantation</u>, which was owned by Zephaniah Kingsley and his wife, Anna Madgigine Jai, who was from Senegal, West Africa, and was purchased by Kingsley as a slave. Freed in 1811, Mrs. Kingsley actively participated in plantation management, acquiring her own land and enslaved workers. The plantation site includes the remains of 23 tabby cabins (originally 32) which were the homes of the 200 men, women, and children who lived and labored on Kingsley Plantation.

Next participants will trace the escape of Gullah Geechee freedom seekers from the British Colonies to St. Augustine, Florida through a visit to Fort Mose State Historical Park. In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose for short, as a settlement for those fleeing slavery from the English colonies in the Carolinas. Over the next 25 years, Fort Mose and Spanish Saint Augustine became a sanctuary for Africans seeking liberation from the tyranny of British colonial slavery. Tour participants will attend the Battle of Bloody Mose Anniversary Commemoration, an annual event that uses first person interpretation and living history demonstrations to illustrate the battle between British and Spanish colonial forces that took place on June 26, 1740 to control the territory and reenslave the African residents.

The tour will culminate with a first-person interpretation of the capture of Seminole chief Osceloa and his small band of warriors who resisted removal from Florida during the Second Seminole War. One of Osceola's wives was a black woman and several of his warriors were Africans who had escaped slavery and settled within Seminole Tribes

Saturday, June 23

Post Conference Workshop: Teaching and Interpreting the Underground Railroad

8:30 am - 10:15 am Complicating Interpretation: Strategies for Presenting Slavery through First Person Narratives

Ted Johnson, "At What Price? Interpreting Controversial Passages to Freedom"

Nancy Dawson, "Stories from da Dirt: Documenting the Escape Stories of African American

Women Using Theatre"





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

James Bullock, "Being Francisco Menéndez: Living History and Fort Mose"

10:15 am - 10:30 am Break

10:30 am - 12:00 pm Looking for Angola: Creative Ways to Engage School Students in the Search and Study of the Angola Settlement

Vicki Oldham and Elizabeth Smith, Screening of Documentary and round table discussion of the "Looking for Angola" project.

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Throwing Away the Textbook: Methods for Teaching "Missing" History

Glennette Tilley Turner, "Engage and Educate your Students about Fort Mose with Standards-Based Strategies and Participatory Activities"

Martha Bireda, "The Gullah War of Resistance or the First Seminole War"

2:30 pm - 2:45 pm Break

2:45 pm - 4:15 pm Investigating a Kingsley Slave Cabin: An Archeological Approach to Teaching 4th and 5th Graders About Slavery

Sarah Miller, Emily Palmer, and Amber Grafft-Weiss, Presentation on Kingsley Slave Cabin lesson in the Project Archeology "Investigating Shelter" series which integrates concepts from history and social studies with an emphasis on science

Sunday, June 24

Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole Cultural Heritage Festival Fort Mose State Historic Park, 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32084 11 am – 6 pm

- Demonstrations of traditional crafts and skills such as basket weaving, dollmaking, woodcarving, herbal remedies, storytelling and foodways.
- Performances, Storytelling and Art Exhibits
- 19th Century Black Seminole Living History Encampment
- Oral History and Artifact Preservation Project
- Children's Activities
- Food and Crafts Vendors





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole Cultural Heritage Festival Sunday, June 24, 2012 Fort Mose State Historic Park

15 Fort Mose Trail St. Augustine, FL 32084 Sunday, June 24, 2012 11 am to 6pm

Join the National Park Service, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program for a Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole Diaspora Cultural Heritage Festival. The culmination of the 6th Annual National Underground Railroad Conference, the cultural festival highlights the traditional crafts, language, music, and foodways of the Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole Diaspora that developed in Florida, the Caribbean, Indian Territory, Texas and Mexico. The Cultural Festival is open to the public and seeks to create a historic exchange between descendent communities of southern freedom seekers, such as the Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole peoples.

The cultural festival is located at Fort Mose' State Historic Park, site of the first free African community in North America having been established by Governor Montiano of Florida in 1738. From the 1600s, hundreds of runaway slaves from the plantations of the Carolinas endured the long arduous and tortuous journey to Fort Mose' in search of freedom and opportunity for themselves and their families.

The festival includes:

- Demonstrations of traditional crafts and skills such as basket weaving, dollmaking, woodcarving, herbal remedies, storytelling and foodways.
- Performances by local and national artists.
- Art exhibits
- 19th century Black Seminole Living History Encampment
- Oral history and artifact preservation education
- Hands-on Children's Activities
- Craft and Food Vendors

Children's Activities:

- Zelda Grant, *Bookmark That!: Lessons from the Underground Railroad*, 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm.
- Nancy Christensen, African and Caribbean Cultural Crafts by Children





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Kate Merrick, Images of the Underground Railroad

Performance:

- Gullah Geechee Ring Shouters, Gullah Geechee Cultural representations of music, performance, and history of the Ring Shout from Slavery, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
- Matt Hampsey, Bruce Barnes, and Nancy Dawson, Songs and Stories from the Underground Railroad in South Louisiana, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm
- Astrid Kurpievska Heinonon, "Rhythm Out of Oppression Into the Freedom Of Expression"
- New Mt. Moriah Choir Ministry Senior Choir, 4:00 pm 4:30 pm
- S & S Mime, "On My Way to Freedom," 4:30 pm 5 pm.
- Chris Kastle, Roots Music: Sea Shanties

Crafts/Demonstration:

• Red Bays, Andros Island, Bahamas crafts





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Exhibit Hall

Poster Session: Friday, June 22, 2:45 to 3:15 pm Exhibit Hall, Legends 2 & 3

Carol Poplin -- Unearthing Stories of the African Diaspora: Turning Research into Revelations In 1720, Scotsman Alexander Nisbett boarded a ship bound for Charles Town and the new Carolina Colony. He knew there were great fortunes to be made there. Three thousand miles away, captive Africans were forced onto ships bound for an unknown place and a future full of uncertainty. The lives of Europeans and Africans converged in South Carolina. At a place called Dean Hall, Alexander Nisbett and his enslaved laborers built a plantation to grow rice. Two hundred and eighty years later, when DuPont decided to build a new Kevlar® fiber plant at this location, the company sponsored an important historical and archaeological study. Archaeologists came to the site of the old plantation to unearth the history of the people who created Dean Hall. They uncovered remnants of 14 slave cabins and recovered over 125,000 artifacts associated with their daily lives. After the investigations were completed, archaeologists, museum specialists, and designers worked together to translate the results of the archaeological study into stories for the public. The poster explores the work done at the site of Dean Hall Plantation slave row, the important role archaeology plays in generating and preserving information about African American history that may not be available through documentary resources, and the great obligation researchers have to share this knowledge with the public.

Zelda Grant – Bookmark That!: Lessons from the Underground Railroad

Bookmark That! is a hands-on workshop involving everyday classroom materials that are transformed into a powerful teaching tool. It is adapted from the Affirmation Bookmark Project; which utilizes cardstock blanks, African fabrics, photo-copied images, wordprint, markers, pencils/pens, glue sticks, scissors, and imagination to create a 2"x 8" bookmark. Participants are given instruction on how to effectively use the materials to create their own Underground Railroad-inspired bookmark. Bookmark That! will be a walk-up, "make and take" presentation without limiting constraints and no guided group discussions.

Nancy Christensen – African and Carribbean Cultural Crafts by Children





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

The presentation will display and discuss artifacts created by children participating in the Artists Cultural Education (ACE) Arts Program, including African Djembe drums under Christian Sun, Painted Beaded Calabash Gourd rattles under Maria, and Junkanoo (Caribbean) breastplates and headdresses. The ACE youth used the Instruments to create rhythm performances at local venues and wore the costumes in the Junkanoo Parade in 2009 while they played their instruments.

Featured Exhibitors

Joseph McGill -- Slave Dwelling Project

Since Mother's Day 2010, Joseph McGill has sought out extant former slave dwellings with the unusual request of spending a night in them, an adventure that has become known as the Slave Dwelling Project. The project brings much needed attention to these often neglected dwellings by giving credit to those entities and individuals that have restored these dwellings while highlighting the sense of urgency for those in need of restoration. The project's popularity has yielded 28 stays in 8 states to include Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Missouri, South Carolina and Texas. Additionally, I have given lectures on the project in Iowa, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Kate Merrick — Images of the Underground Railroad

Having recently conducted a few art classes for African American children in St. Augustine, Ms. Merrick was inspired to do more research on the 17th and 18th century Underground Railroad activity in St. Augustine, such as the rich resource of Fort Mose. She taught children to make posters featuring simple scenes representing events and people from that time. The exhibit will include scenes of the exodus of the freedom seekers to the Seminole south and to the Caribbean.





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

AFFILIATED EVENTS

"The Flying Ace" Film Screening, Tuesday evening, June 19th 7:30 pm-8:45 pm
Gamache-Koger Theater inside the Ringhaver Student Center Flagler College, 74 King Street, Saint Augustine, FL 32084

NOTE: This event is free and open to the public, but donations are accepted.

Hidden away in the Arlington community of Jacksonville are five historic buildings that have the distinction of being the epicenter of the silent movie era. Built in 1916, these buildings became the Norman Studios, a complex owned by silent filmmaker Richard Norman. Norman Studios was among the nation's first to produce films starring African American characters in positive, non-stereotypical roles, contrasting the derogatory roles offered by the era's mainstream filmmakers. More than 8 silent films were produced at the Norman Studios, including "The Flying Ace" which was filmed in 1926. Each of Norman's films starred an all-black cast. It is the last surviving studio complex from the River City's heyday as a wintertime film production hub.

"The Flying Ace" stars Kathryn Boyd as a female daredevil anxious to learn to fly, and Laurence Criner as a World War I hero pilot called upon to solve the mystery of \$25,000 in stolen money and a missing railroad employee. Criner's character, Capt. William Stokes, represented the first time that an African American was portrayed on film as a military aviator and hero.

"The Flying Ace" (1926) was inspired by Bessie Coleman, the first black female airplane pilot. Coleman died in a plane crash in Jacksonville while preparing for an airshow performance in April 1926. Norman based Boyd's character on Coleman and released "The Flying Ace" later that year. Also, according to film historians, a number of the young boys who would see "The Flying Ace" during the late 1920s would later be inspired to serve the country as Tuskegee Airmen during the 1940s.

Battle of Bloody Mose', Saturday, June 24th 10 am-4 pm Fort Mose State Historic Park, 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine, Florida 32084

NOTE: This outdoor battle re-enactment is free and open to the public. A \$2.00 fee is required for entrance to the Fort Mose Visitor Center and Museum.

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, the Fort Mose Historic State Park and *Los Presidiales de San Augustin*, member unit of Florida Living History, Inc, in partnership with the Fort Mose





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

Historical Society present the third annual commemoration of the Battle of Bloody Mose which had taken place 272 years earlier on June 26, 1740. This event was the turning point in the British siege of Saint Augustine in 1740 which was part of the larger world conflict known as the War of Jenkins Ear. The decisive Spanish victory at Fort Mose allowed Spain to hold on to La Florida for a further 23 years despite the threat from the expanding British colonies to the north.

The significance of the event goes beyond geo-politics. Fort Mose was the first free African community in North America having been established by Governor Montiano of Florida in 1738. From the 1600s, hundreds of enslaved people from the plantations of the Carolinas endured the long arduous and tortuous journey to La Florida in search of freedom and opportunity for themselves and their families.

Fueling this flight south and fear among the British colonists were the frequent raids by the Spanish and their Yamassee allies against the coastal plantations between 1715 and 1728. This led Britain to create out of Spanish lands to the south of Charleston the Crown Colony of Georgia in 1732 to be settled by small farmers and traders to serve as a defensive buffer between the Carolinas and Florida. This provocation set in motion a series of events which ultimately resulted in British forces attacking Spanish Florida in 1739 and 1740.





2012 National Underground Railroad Conference

GULLAH GEECHEE and BLACK SEMINOLE DESCENDANTS

Texas

- William "Dub" Warrior
- Rafaella "Effie" Brown

Mexico

- Genevieve Payne Vincent
- Fred Payne

Bahamas

- Winton Russell
- Henry Wallace
- Gertrude Gibson
- Rita Pratt

Gullah Geechee

- MaQuetta "Queen Quet" Goodwine
- Vermelle Bunny Rodrigues

California

• Phil "Pompey Fixico" Wilkes